



**SPECIAL PROVISIONS  
FOR  
TREE PROTECTION**

**Polk County  
STP-U-1945(858--70-77**

**Effective Date  
December 19, 2023**

**THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS, SERIES 2023, ARE AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS. THESE ARE SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND THEY SHALL PREVAIL OVER THOSE PUBLISHED IN THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.**

**231014.01 GENERAL.**

**A. Section Includes.**

1. Installation of Tree Protection Measures
2. Damage to Protected Trees
3. Inspection and Documentation

**B. Definition of Terms and Abbreviations.**

**1. Work Zone Protected Tree.**

A tree of any size that is located within the project's work zone and is to remain in place at the completion of the project.

**2. Border Protected Tree.**

A tree of any size that is located outside the project work zone, but has branches extending over the work area, or whose trunk is located within 10 feet of the edge of the work area.

**3. Tree Protection Limit.**

The area around a tree, as defined in the Tree Protection Plan, in which no construction activity or materials storage is allowed. If the tree protection limit is not defined in the Tree Protection Plan, it shall be considered to be equal to the Critical Root Radius.

**4. dbh: Diameter at Breast Height.**

The diameter of a tree trunk in inches measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the natural ground level.

**5. CRR: Critical Root Radius.**

Expressed in feet equal to the dbh in inches. (The CRR of a tree with a 12 inch dbh is 12 feet) This is the desired distance from the tree trunk at which fencing is installed and no construction activity is allowed.

**231014.02 DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

- A.** The Contractor shall not damage any trees and shrubs which are not part of the removal plan, regardless of whether installation of tree protection measures is required or not. The contract documents shall designate individual trees and/or areas of the project that require installation of tree protection measures as defined in this supplemental specification. The Engineer may add, delete or revise the areas that require tree protection at any time prior to or during the project construction period. This Section includes the deduction of payment to the Contractor for damage to a tree or unauthorized removal of a tree.
- B.** The Contractor shall install all tree protection measures before the commencement of any construction activities. Construction activity includes but is not limited to, driving on the site in any vehicle, grading, excavation, import and storage of materials.

**231014.03 MATERIALS.**

**A. Orange Mesh Tree Protection Fence.**

- 1.** Fabric shall meet the following material requirements:
  - a.** Height of 72 inches (+2 inches) or height of 48 inches (+2 inches) as specified in the bid item.
  - b.** Remain flexible down to 0° F and constructed of orange plastic mesh containing ultraviolet stabilizers to prevent degradation.
  - c.** Minimum tensile strength of 250 pounds per foot in the longitudinal direction and 150 pounds per foot in the vertical direction.
  - d.** Maximum aperture opening of a nominal 4.5 square inches.
  - e.** Maximum porosity of 55% for the safety fence surface area.
  - f.** Available in rolls of at least 50 feet in length to minimize fence joints for an individual fence location.
- 2.** Fence posts shall meet the following requirements:
  - a.** Use T-section steel posts, 8 foot length for 6 foot high fence, or 6 foot length for 4 foot high fence.
  - b.** Equip posts with lugs or other approved means to prevent the fence fabric from moving vertically.
  - c.** Use posts that weigh no less than 1.3 pounds per foot, exclusive of anchor plate.
  - d.** Provide each post with a steel anchor plat of adequate size, firmly attached.
  - e.** Install at an 8 foot maximum spacing for 6 foot high fence, or 6 foot maximum spacing for 4 foot high fence, or as required to prevent fence fabric from sagging.

**B. Tree Trunk Protection.**

When tree construction operations are required in close proximity to a tree, defined as any activity within the Critical Root Radius, the Contractor shall install tree trunk protection.

- 1.** Wrap the tree trunk with dimensional lumber either 2 inches by 4, 6, 8, or 10 (actual thickness is 1.5 inches). Depending upon the trunk diameter, the tree length, and size of tree, dimensional lumber shall be approximately 8 foot long, but necessary length will depend on

the existing tree and associated construction activity.

2. Secure the lumber against the trunk with Metal, plastic, or polyester bands, a minimum 3/8 inch width, at a minimum of two locations to securely hold the protective dimensional lumber against the trunk of the tree. The bands shall be secured with a tensioner under slight pressure to ensure their long term positioning for the duration of the contract. The bands shall be stapled to the wooden uprights at several points around the circumference so they don't slide down. If trees are protected for more than one year, an inspection is required to determine if the tree has begun pushing outward on the protection. If the bands are too tight they shall be replaced with new bands under the appropriate tension.

#### **231014.04 CONSTRUCTION.**

##### **A. Tree Protection Plan.**

The Contractor shall use the Tree Protection Plan in the contract documents or submit an alternate to the installation of tree protection, such as the installation of silt fencing along border trees, if such alternates provide acceptable tree protection. The Engineer shall have the sole authority for acceptance or rejection of alternates. Alternate plans may also take into consideration preliminary brush removal. No mechanical grading or vegetation removal may take place within 6 feet of a tree trunk without approval of the Engineer and the City Forester.

##### **B. Installation And Maintenance Of Tree Protection Measures.**

1. After approval of the Tree Protection Plan by the Engineer, and prior to starting construction work, the Contractor shall install the tree protection fencing or other approved measures in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan. Install fence posts as required to prevent sagging. Securely attach the fence so it is in a vertical position without sagging. Locate and place the fence supports so they are not a safety hazard. Clearly mark with paint the trees to be removed in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan. No construction activity shall commence until the tree protection fencing measures and the trees marked for removal have been reviewed on site by the Engineer or construction observer. Phasing of the installation of tree protection measures will only be allowed if shown on the approved Tree Protection Plan. Repair or replace any tree protection fence that is damaged, not in a vertical position or no longer providing the intended protection.
2. When specified by the contract, the Contractor shall construct tree trunk protection around each tree specified. These methods will be required in specific situations to protect a tree trunk.

##### **C. Damages To Trees.**

Contractor shall notify the Engineer of any damage to trees not designated for removal, including border protected trees. Damages include but are not limited to:

- Scratched or gouged bark.
- Broken branches.
- Compaction of soil within the specified tree protection limits.
- Storage of materials within a tree's critical root radius.
- Operation of equipment within the specified tree protection limits.
- Parking of vehicles or equipment within a tree's critical root radius.
- Spilling of harmful substances around or within a tree's critical root radius.

##### **D. Inspection and Documentation.**

1. The Contractor shall periodically inspect the tree protection fencing, repair any deficiencies, and update the Tree Protection Plan. All updates shall be submitted to the Engineer for approval. A copy of the current Tree Protection Plan shall be available on the construction

site.

2. If any tree not designated for removal is damaged or removed, the Contractor shall notify the Engineer with 48 hours.

**231014.05 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT**

- A. The Tree Protection Plan shall be included in the contract documents and management of the plan shall be incidental to the contract.
- B. Tree Protection Fence: Tree protection fence shall be measured along the fence at the bottom of the mesh fabric. The Contractor shall be paid the contract unit price per linear foot of tree protection fence installed. The height of tree protection fencing shall be identified in the contract documents. This payment shall be full compensation for furnishing all materials, equipment, and labor to perform installation, maintenance, and removal of fencing. If other types of fence, such as silt fence for border trees, is installed and functions as tree protection fence, measurement and payment will not be made for this fence as tree protection fence.
- C. Tree Trunk Protection: The Contractor shall be paid the contract unit price per each for tree trunk protection installed. This payment shall be full compensation for furnishing all materials, equipment, and labor to perform installation, maintenance, and removal of trunk protection.
- D. For each occurrence of tree protection fencing not installed as per the approved Tree Protection Plan or not properly maintained as described in Section 3.02A, and for each occurrence of intrusion into the Tree Protection Zone, \$600 per day shall be deducted from the amount due the Contractor:
  1. The condition of any tree damaged by the Contractor will be evaluated by the City Forester. The Contractor shall be required to repair damage to the tree as directed by the City Forester. This could include, but not be limited to trimming and pruning of the branches and roots in accordance with the current edition of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standards for Tree Care Operations, Part 1, Pruning.
  2. In addition to repairing the damage, a price adjustment of \$300 for a tree 6-inch or less in diameter, \$500 for a 6 to 12 inch or less diameter tree; and \$750 for a tree greater than 12 inches in diameter. The price adjustments are per tree damaged by the Contractor.
- E. When the City Forester determines the damaged tree needs to be removed, the Contractor shall remove the tree and stump, and restore the sod area. Repair and removal of damaged trees shall be completed at no cost to the City. The Contractor shall also compensate the City for the replacement cost of any damaged tree that is removed, per the City Forester's assessment. The Contractor shall also be liable to the owner of any tree located on private property that must be removed due to damage, for the full value of the tree. Documentation of such payment shall be provided to the City.